

God sent John to prepare the way for Christ. Notwithstanding the Jews had so completely covered up with their human traditions and laws the true law God gave them, that they had almost forgotten that God had promised to send them a deliverer. When Jesus came he told them they were teaching for commandments the doctrine of men. What would the blessed Christ say were he to come to earth the first day, the New Year, to such an alarming extent have the doctrines and commandments of men grown into the minds and hearts of men that it is almost impossible to get them to realize that they are not obeying the commandments of God but the commandments of men? It is true, that some are so far gone, that when approached upon this subject, they will tell you it does not make any difference, it is faith that saves them any how. There is men and women too, going over the country making people believe that all they have to do to become a true Christian, is just to confess they love the Lord Jesus Christ.

God has said by the mouth of the prophet I will lay justice to the line, and righteousness to the plummet, and a hail storm shall sweep away a refuge of his. Why will thinking men and women be so blind. They can surely read that God requires a full obedience to the whole law, as well as a pure love for him and his Son. God has said that every knee shall bow to Christ, and every tongue shall confess unto him. God must be obeyed. Ignorance or being falsely guided will be of no service as an excuse in the last great day, nor can any man, or a set of men, even if it were the entire world, force God to do otherwise than he has commanded by his son. Men may invent formes, creeds, and rules of faith as they please, yet God has plainly said from the beginning of time that he is an unchangeable God. God bless us all with a blessed New Year.

JOHN NICHOLSON.

Beatrice, Neb., 513 North 9th.

Valedictory.

Although on account of some business matters I may be detained here several weeks, yet my relation to Milford church as its pastor closed last Saturday evening, when I delivered a farewell address. The occasion was one of interest and feeling.

Ten months ago I commenced my work here, we were then comparatively strangers, but during my stay here I have made many acquaintances, and formed attachments and ties that are near and dear and will last forever. My associations with the brethren and people of Milford, have been very pleasant. I have learned to love them, and it caused some pain and feelings of regret to know that we must take the parting hand. But I am glad to know that, while for a time at least, we must be separated, the ties that bind us need not be severed. They have been very kind and good to me, and hope I may always have a place in their memory and prayers, as they surely shall have in mine. Bro. Cober, my successor, is here now and at work, and I am glad that I can hand over the work to him in a good, hopeful, and prosperous condition. I have had the privilege of hearing him

preach two sermons. These are the first I ever heard him preach. He is a young man of more than ordinary talent and ability, and will, no doubt, be the right man in the right place. I feel like congratulating the Milford church, in being so fortunate in securing the services of Bro. Cober for the coming year. Hope the meeting now being carried on by him may be a success. I expect to remain and enjoy it for some time, and render such assistance as may be necessary and prudent.

At present I have no charge and am willing to confer with any church needing a pastor. If my services in the ministry are needed I am willing to work. If not I will turn my attention to other pursuits.

J. A. RIDENOUR.

West Independence, Ohio.

Owing to press of work, I have been silent for some time, but have been wishing and praying for the success of the cause in the meantime. One can not always be situated as he would like; if that were possible, I should wish to devote my whole time to the preaching of the gospel; since it is not possible, I must teach five days each week, and can only give the remaining two to the work.

I hardly know what to say concerning our progress; this I can say: we are in peace, and doing what we can for the salvation of souls. Though there have been no accession since I began my work, I hope that some good, at least, may have been done. Perhaps it is best that one should not know how much good is being done; the laborer might become proud of his influence, or he would be so discouraged, as to give up the work in despair.

It does one good to know that God asks no more of him than he is able to do. I have tried to do my part, and the brethren are standing by me nobly, and now we leave the work with Him who giveth the increase.

At this place, as at all others, there are many who should be followers of the "meek and lowly Lamb," but the difficulty lies in making them realize the fact. Large congregations attend all our services, and I can truthfully say that the Brethren church leads here. We are not many in numbers, but one with God is better than all without Him. We have here organizations of the U. B.'s, Evangelical, G. B. and Brethren, most of which are represented by God-fearing men and women.

At present we are having services Bi-weekly, on Sabbath morning and evening, at which times the gospel is preached by your servant, who tries to do it as well as he knows.

Last Sunday night I preached my fortieth sermon. Not very many yet, but I pray God for strength while I double that number, that His name may be honored and glorified by men.

Our S. S. gave a Christmas entertainment on the eve of that glorious day. I trust that all were benefited, and brought nearer to Him whose birth into the world we attempted to celebrate.

Owing to impossibilities I have not visited New Stark for some time, but expect to continue my work there again soon.

We expect Bro. Swihart to hold a series of meeting for us soon, and we ask an interest

in your prayers for our success. My best wishes to Bro. Mason and wife, as well as all followers of Christ.

MARTIN SHIVELY.

Jan. 2nd, 1888.

Another Appeal for the College.

Some time since I visited Ashland and made inquiry in reference to the educational part of the College. I found there some fifty students. Last year this time there were some thirty, so you see the patronage is increasing. All seemed well satisfied and the out-look is very promising for the future. If we can only get the financial part adjusted so as to relieve the heavy burden from those few who are financially responsible and secure the permanency of the institution, our wish will be realized. While some have responded nobly in a substantial way, we are sorry to see such an indifference by others who should be equally interested in not even paying up what they promised. It seems to me if they could just realize the situation they would put forth greater effort in this direction.

Nearly all will admit that such an institution is a necessity for the church. The great cry is, more ministers. Come and help us. And where shall the help come from? Ashland College has already sent out some noble men into the ministerial field who are full of the Holy Ghost and zeal for the cause of Christ who have and are still doing a grand work, and we need many more to supply the demand.

Yes we are all interested in the College, we wish it success. We are praying for it. We hope it will be paid for. It will all come right by and by. This is all well enough so far, but our good wishes, our prayers and our hopes will not pay the debt.

This puts me in mind of an old lady who had a very poor piece of land that would not produce anything. Some one suggested that she should get the priest to pray for it. The priest was called. He came and looked at it, and said "madam praying will do no good here, you had better put some manure on it." He was right. God will not do for us what we can do ourselves. What an easy thing it would be to wipe out this debt, make us all happy and give an impetus to the College to go on in its mission of good to our posterity who would rise up and call us blessed.

Now dear brethren, and sisters too, pardon us, we know it is very unpleasant to refer to this matter so often, but what else can we do? We cannot afford to send out a solicitor, it would cost money and be slow work. The cheapest and quickest way is for each congregation to act in this matter.

The U. B. church is now engaged in raising a sixty thousand dollar foreign missionary debt in this way. We love our brotherhood. We love our gospel-alone principles. We love our institutions. It makes us feel glad to hear of success in the church. We feel deeply interested in her welfare. We want to see it prosper, and hence we make this appeal. Come and help us in this time of need. We want a loan of 15,000 dollars. We issue

bonds one hundred dollars each, bearing interest at 6% per annum made to bearer and are negotiable. Security, the College property and the endorsement of the Trustees, one hundred and fifty bonds. Who will take one or more? Some one canvass in every congregation, and report the number to the EVANGELIST not later than the first of February, as we want the money on the middle of February next.

I am not rich but to encourage the work put me down for \$500.

Yours in Love,
JOSIAH KEIM.President of the
Board of Trustees.

\$15,000 is the amount of a mortgage that is now resting upon the College property. When that is lifted there will be no preferred claim against the property. The man who holds this mortgage wants his money next month. There are other claims that should be paid which take up the donations that are being paid, and so the Trustees cannot depend upon that to pay this man his money. \$15,000 is a good deal of money, but 150 brethren and sisters at \$100 each will make the sum. Now let us heed the appeal of the President of the Board and one hundred and fifty of us come up and say we will each guarantee to furnish \$100, and take in return a College bond, bearing 6 per cent. interest payable annually, lift the encumbrance from the land for which \$6,000 cash was paid, with buildings upon it that cost \$60,000, and help brethren who need help, in their effort to sustain our school, our Christianity and our honor as brethren in Jesus Christ.

Bro. Kiem has agreed to be five men, and furnish \$500. Send in your names brethren at once. Come to the rescue. Brother or sister if you have not the money, you have credit and can borrow it for this emergency. Only 150 of you.

A. L. GARBER.

Gleanings.

Things are moving on in the even tenor of their way. We are trying to do all the good we can and as little harm as possible. While great men accomplish great things, yet the mass of the work is resting on and dependent upon the less applauded.

"I have hid these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes."

On Christmas day I took charge of the Tiosa church, Ind., and while others have preceded me with greater talent and theological attainments we go in the fear of the Lord and the name of Israel's God. Brethren pray for us.

Here we met our young Bro. Stahl for the first time, and found him earnestly engaged in Sunday school work. He was elected superintendent of the Tiosa Sabbath school on Christmas day. The Lord bless his labors.

We start today to visit the scenes of our childhood where father and mother sleep, awaiting the resurrection morn.

We thank our church for granting us a holiday. Sister Summers has gone and we will meet her at Indianapolis and continue our journey.

WM. W. SUMMERS.

OUR CHURCH.

Send for a copy of the Annual. Ten cents is all it costs.

Bro. J. H. Swihart is expected in Ohio soon to hold revival meetings.

Wm. Kiefer sends in \$31.00 dollar donations by the Fair Haven church.

Bro. A. A. Cober conducted a protracted meeting at Milford, Ind., last week.

H. H. Myers sends in \$50.00 donated by the church of Lanark or Milledgeville, Ill.

Bro. James A. Miller expects to go to Glenford, Ohio, every two weeks to preach for the brethren there.

Bro. A. A. Cober is now earnestly at work in the Milford, Ind., congregation, and finds the church in a good condition.

It is a rule of this office to furnish the paper for \$1.00 per year where another pays the subscription for a poor brother or sister.

Bro. R. Z. Replogle pronounces the Annual the best yet. We do not know what part he prizes, but the article that relates to the conversation that Dr. Franklin had with one of the original members of the Brethren church is worth more than the price.

Sister C. C. Randolph writes: Dear EVANGELIST: I will have to say good bye for the present, as it will be impossible for me to send the money to renew my subscription. It is with tears of sorrow that I pen these lines. Our crop was an entire failure the past season and it is hard to live here and many will suffer. I shall be lonely with out the dear EVANGELIST, but hope better times are in reserve for us when I can send for it again.

We wonder whether there is not some wealthy brother or sister who will favor the sister by paying her subscription? We will divide the expense with either.

During the last week, the following persons sent in donations to the College: David Hufford, Rossville, Ind., \$5.00; Samuel Miller, Gretna, Ohio, \$1.00; Laura Slotter, Columbiana, Ohio, \$1.00; H. B. Lehman, Marcus, Iowa, \$1.00; Belle Abbey, Covington, Ohio, \$10.00; T. C. Leslie, Nappanee, Ind., \$1.00; A. J. Showalter, Adrian, Mo., for himself, wife and daughter, \$3.00. Keep the ball rolling brethren, until the debt is paid.

Monthly Statement of the Treasurer and Auditor of Ashland College, December, 1887.

RECEIPTS.

1. Dollar donation, Homer Church,	26 00
1. Dollar donation, North Star Church,	25 00
7. Josiah Keim,	70 00
8. A. Hilbert, Note,	5 00
13. Dollar donation, A. Swihart,	1 00
13. Laura Snader, Mary Miller,	2 00
15. Isaac Holsinger,	25 00
17. H. M. Baker,	23 34
19. Elizabeth Shidler,	1 00
19. Samuel Latshaw, Note,	15 00
20. C. B. Clapper, Dunkirk, O.,	1 00
20. James Skelly, Milford, Ind.,	30 00
27. G. W. Myers, Sabetha Kan.,	3 50
27. H. R. Dooly,	10 00
30. Dollar donation, Dunlaps, Ind.,	12 00
30. E. L. Devore,	18 00
31. Dollar donations,	13 00
31. Tuition paid in Dec.,	53 60
Total receipts,	334 44

EXPENDITURES.

2. Kauffman & Beer,	9 00
6. Fritzinger, Insurance,	18 10
7. Janitor,	15 00
10. Stamps,	50
16. Janitor,	2 00
14. Tuning Piano,	2 00
17. Mrs. W. C. Perry,	25 00
17. Janitor,	1 00
22. Stamps,	25
24. Janitor,	5 00
27. E. Brown, Interest,	60 00
Total Expenditures,	137 85
Am't overpaid, Nov. 30.,	813 97

951 82
Less receipts,
334 44
Am't overpaid Dec. 31, '87,
617 38

H. K. MYERS, Treas.
I hereby certify the above to be correct.

DAVID BAILEY, Auditor.